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## The Insider

The Insider  
Special ReportIVY PRESIDENT SERVES CIA  
**THE SPY WHO CAME  
IN FROM THE CAMPUS**

When Brown University's trustees named Barnaby Conrad Keeney the school's 12th president in 1955, he seemed the perfect choice—a prominent historian with a graduate degree from Harvard, who had rapidly moved up the administrative hierarchy of the Providence, Rhode Island college. What few people at the ivy league school knew, however, was that Keeney had secretly maintained a professional relationship with the Central Intelligence Agency.

In a recent interview at his retirement home in Little Compton, Rhode Island, Keeney further admitted that his association with the CIA had continued during the 11 years of his presidency. While refusing to provide details, he revealed sufficient information to allow his intelligence career to be at least partially reconstructed.

The services Keeney performed for the CIA, according to Morton Halperin, a former Kissinger aide turned CIA critic, were generally representative of the way in

which the Agency secretly used academics at more than 100 American colleges and universities. "There was a revolving door between the ivy league schools, particularly Harvard, and the CIA," recalls a distinguished historian who attended Harvard shortly after Keeney. "The same people controlled staffing for history departments and for the analysis division of the intelligence services. Barney Keeney was roped into that network."

Keeney was dean of Brown's graduate school when he first took a leave of absence to work for the CIA in 1951. He spent the next year helping top Agency officials design a training program for new recruits, according to Lyman Kirkpatrick, a former CIA executive director and a Brown political science professor since 1965.

Campus sources have confirmed that this was the only time Keeney formally notified the university of his CIA ties. There is no indication that anyone at the school knew the content of his

classified work. "I was aware Barnaby worked for the CIA in 1951," says John McIntyre, special assistant to five presidents at Brown since World War II, "but I never knew what he did, or that he continued to work for them. I don't know that anyone did."

Keeney's colleagues at Brown may have known nothing of his intelligence work, but his Agency associates kept a close eye on the progress of his academic career. "Naturally," wrote then CIA Inspector General Kirkpatrick after learning of Keeney's presidential appointment, "I hope that the best of Brown will be encouraged to make intelligence a career." And Brown faculty members recall CIA requests to provide references for students who were unaware that they were under scrutiny.

Keeney admitted only to having advised the Agency on ways of setting up covert funding operations, and refused to discuss the specific advice he had given. The Insider, however, has learned, that in 1962 Keeney began serving as chairman of one such cover organization—the Human Ecology Fund—a front for perhaps the most controversial domestic program in the CIA's history. The fund was one of several dummy foundations which, over a twenty-year period, the Agency secretly used to channel millions of dollars into mind-control research, including LSD testing on human subjects, as part of a project code-named MKULTRA.

Keeney said he was told by CIA officials that MKULTRA was designed to counter Soviet and Chinese brainwashing techniques, developed through the use of psych chemicals and hypnosis. But internal CIA documents indicate the Agency had long before turned to offensive uses for behavior control. It sought to break down the mental defenses of enemy agents and, according to one memo, "to get control of an individual to the point where he will do our bidding against

nature as self-preservation."

While Keeney indicates that covert funding was necessary to hide the CIA's involvement from enemy nations, a 1957 inspector general's report, drafted by Kirkpatrick and critical of MKULTRA, suggests other reasons for secrecy. The CIA wished to protect its researchers from the opprobrium of colleagues who would have considered the experiments "unethical and . . . [bordering] on the illegal." Furthermore, many of the scholars, whose research was financed by the fund, never knew that it was a CIA conduit.

Last fall, the CIA confidentially notified 80 institutions, including 44 colleges and universities, that their campuses had played host to MKULTRA research. The Agency never informed Brown officials of Keeney's function at the Human Ecology Fund or any other aspect of his intelligence work. "I know that some of my colleagues at other ivy league schools are tearing their hair out trying to find out more from the CIA about what kind of work was done on their campuses," said Brown's current president, Howard Swearer, when told of his predecessor's involvement, "and they aren't having any luck. Given the fragmentary nature of the information which the CIA provides, it probably doesn't matter much that we weren't informed." He declined to comment further.

Keeney's CIA career remains partially enshrouded in mystery. It has not been possible to determine whether Keeney maintained his relationship with the CIA after leaving Brown in 1966 to head another prestigious organization: the National Endowment for the Humanities. When questioned as to whether the NEH was ever used to cloak CIA operations, he asked incredulously, "Do you know what would happen to an agent who used the NEH as a cover?" After a dramatic pause he answered, "He would be killed." He would not elaborate on this point.

